

FLEET Focus

School’s in session aboard USS Lake Erie

Ens. Edward Yandoc
USS LAKE ERIE

Students huddle in a hallway outside of their classroom, quizzing each other as a last minute review before their exam. It is a common sight in any school or college. But what makes this class unique is the setting: this is Damage Control University (DCU) aboard USS Lake Erie (CG 70).

DCU is a ship-wide program that gives Lake Erie Sailors the knowledge and experience to handle any emergency at any time. The challenge is implementing a DC program that benefits both a Sailor, who has been in the Navy for 20 years, and a young man or woman fresh out of recruit training who isn't even 20-years-old.

"How are you gonna get [almost] 350 Sailors all on the same page?" asked Lake Erie's Damage Control Assistant (DCA), Ens. Brian Ellis. "It's an all hands effort."

All hands is a literal term. From the freshest seaman to the saltiest of chief petty officers, attendance of the one-hour-a-day class is mandatory. Enlisted and officers sit together, learning and refreshing their DC knowledge.

"It's everyone from the lowest rank to the top rank sitting in the same class room learning the same thing," said Operation Specialist 3rd Class Adam Woolridge.

"Leadership by strong personal example is one of the most effective means of communicating priorities," said Executive Officer, Lt. Cmdr. Dave Welch, who teaches one of the sections.

The course is designed to teach students

the 301 to 309 levels of Damage Control Personal Qualifications Standards (PQS). There are four different periods of instruction throughout the day, held on the mess decks, so everyone has the opportunity to attend classes.

A lesson plan is e-mailed to the crew and is made available on the ship website so students can review the subject matter before the actual class. Instructors then go over a computer presentation in a classroom environment, explaining concepts and answering questions. A review is given and then a written-exam tests the comprehension of the students.

The lessons are then reinforced through general quarters drills and hands on training. It all falls inline with Lake Erie's philosophy of "talk through it, chalk through it, walk through it." Students are also given incentives to excel in class.

The top 10-percent of students in DCU are considered distinguished graduates and are rewarded with three-day weekends and certificates of commendation by Capt. Hammerer. The top graduate of DCU is given the Golden Spanner Wrench Award signifying his excellence in the field of DC.

Ens. Ellis plans to continue future "semesters" of DCU to accommodate new personnel as they report aboard Lake Erie. The crewmembers have realized the benefits of DCU, although some were apprehensive at first.

"I thought that it would be good for people just checking on board, for the most part I thought it would be a refresher for the rest of us," said Gunner's Mate 2nd



Ens. Edward Yandoc photo

Sailors aboard USS Lake Erie (CG 70) participate in a ship-wide training program. Damage Control University intends to gives Lake Erie Sailors the ability to handle any emergency.

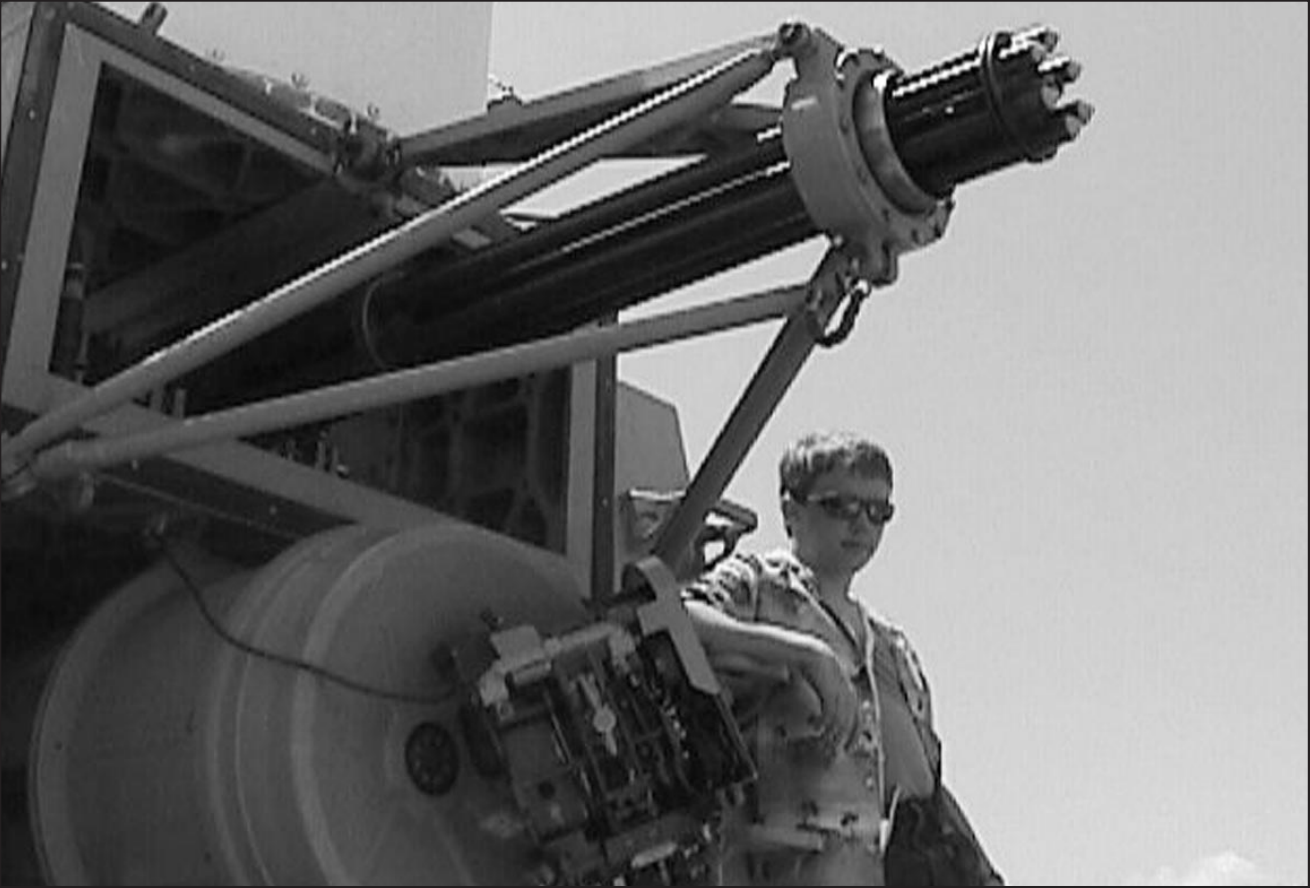
Class Chuck Reddoor.

The subject matter of DCU covers specific details that unless reviewed often, are easily forgotten. According to Ens. Ellis, longtime Sailors can always use a refresher, and can also serve as mentors for their younger counterparts. "I believe that we do

not ever stop learning," he said.

Seaman Salvador Martinez sees benefits for both himself and the ship as a whole. "You have more trust in your shipmates," he said. "And that's important because that guy sitting next to you in class could be the guy that saves your life."

USS Russell makes a wish come true with tour



USS Russell photo

Josh gets a close a look at Russell's Close in Weapons System (CIWS) during his visit March 26.

By Ens. Jason Troupe
USS RUSSELL PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The morning of March, 26, brought the Sailors of USS Russell (DDG 59) a very special opportunity – the opportunity to grant a young boy's wish.

Joshua LaChance is a 14-year-old boy with a medical condition called Spina Bifida. Josh loves history, especially about World War II and the lore of battleships. He is also very interested in the modern United States Navy, and the crew of Russell was

delighted welcome Josh aboard for a day.

Thanks to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Josh traveled from Missouri to see Russell, as well as Battleship Missouri Memorial (BB 63) and the USS Arizona Memorial. He was accompanied

by his mother, Beverly Boren, family members and friends.

The visit began with Josh being welcomed aboard by Russell's commanding officer, Cmdr. Rob Winsor, Jr. He also met his escorts for the day, Lt. j.g. Mike Conrady and Operations Specialist 3rd Class (SW) Justin Anderson.

The first place Josh wanted to see was the ship's pilothouse. There, Conrady talked at length about the watchstanders that man the bridge when the ship is underway. He also met one of those watchstanders, Boatswain's Mate Seaman Shaun Haynes. Haynes, one of Russell's Boatswains Mates of the Watch, who presented Josh with a Boatswain's pipe. The Boatswain's pipe is used when passing the word through the ship's general announcing system.

"I thought it was really cool that we were able to fulfill his wish," said Haynes. "It would be nice if we could do stuff like that more often."

The group then proceeded to Russell's Combat Information Center. Once there, Combat Systems Officer Lt. Cmdr. Leonard Santiago gave a presentation detailing the ships various weapons systems. An accompanying slide show provided visual images during the discussion.

After learning about Russell's combat capabilities, Josh and his family were brought to the ship's Central Control Station. There, Gas Turbine Systems Technician (Mechanical) 1st Class (SW) Curtis Evans and Engineman 1st

Class(SW) Anthony Rivera explained some of the major systems that comprise the heart of Russell's engineering plant.

Following the discussion, Josh was taken into one of the main engine rooms, where he got to see the gas turbine engines and generators that provide propulsion and electrical power to the ship. Prior to leaving the engine room for lunch, Evans gave Josh a book filled with World War II trivia facts.

"When I learned he was really interested in World War II, I figured he would like the book, so I got it for him," remarked Evans.

When the tour of the engine room was completed, Josh and his family were taken to Russell's Wardroom, where they had lunch with Russell's officers.

After lunch, the group met with Fire Controlman 3rd Class Scott Bouchard, who took them to see a Close-in-Weapons System gun mount. Bouchard also presented Josh with a set of polished shell casings. After leaving the gun mount, Josh was met by Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Marcos Daniel, who took them inside one of Russell's Vertical Launch System magazines.

Through the efforts of Russell's outstanding crew, Josh was able to see a vast majority of the ship, and said he was very happy and grateful for the opportunity to visit. When Josh departed that afternoon, all hands involved felt a great deal of pride and satisfaction in fulfilling a young man's wish.

VP-47 sends three Sailors to commissioning programs

By Lt.j.g. D.C. Brown
VP-47

Three exceptional Sailors from Patrol Squadron 47 were recently selected for commissioning programs. The news of their selections was welcomed through out the squadron, which is currently deployed to Naval Support Facility (NSF) Diego Garcia, in the Indian Ocean, with detachments in the Arabian Gulf.

Intelligence Specialist 1st Class Beverly Warren and Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd Class Jimmy Bolton were selected for the United States Navy's Enlisted Commissioning Program (ECP) while Aviation Electronics Technician 2nd Class Elizabeth Yozviak was selected for the Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program (MECP). These programs were specifically designed to give qualified enlisted personnel the opportunity to earn a commission as a United States Naval Officer.

Warren, a native of Eunice, La., first started her career in the Navy as an Operations Specialist in 1992. Her early assignments involved extensive work with the Navy's Underwater Sound Surveillance System (SOSUS). In 1996, she redesignated to Intelligence Specialist and served at JAC Molesworth, United Kingdom for two years before reporting to VP-47. The command immediately took notice of her astute attention to detail and hard work.

According to Lt. j.g. Brian Jones, VP-47's Aviation Intelligence Officer, "As soon as IS1 Warren told me that she was considering ECP, I knew that she was going to be selected," said Jones. "I could not have asked for a better intelligence specialist to work with. She is going to make an outstanding naval officer."

Warren will be returning to the classroom this fall at the University of Maryland.

"After receiving my commission, I would like to enter the aviation pipeline," IS1



AT2 Elizabeth Yozviak

Warren states. "I'm looking forward to continuing my naval career as an officer."

Originally from Springfield, S. C., AO2(SW) Jimmy Bolton has had a remarkable nine year career in the Navy. He was first assigned to VS-21 in Atsugi, Japan working with the S-3 Viking, a fixed-wing antisubmarine warfare platform.

"Once I got to Japan, I knew that no other job I could have chosen out of high school would have been as rewarding," says Bolton. "Right away I was getting a chance to go to Korea and Australia."

After serving three years with VS-24 at Naval Air Station (NAS) Cecil Field, Fla., he reported to VP-47 in July 2000. Upon arriving, he immediately started his application for ECP.

"I have wanted to join the officer ranks for a while now. I have enjoyed the responsibil-



AO2(SW) Jimmy Bolton

ities of handling live ordnance as an Aviation Ordnanceman and I am looking forward to the additional responsibilities and challenges of serving the country at a higher level."

When he receives his bachelor's degree from the University of North Florida, Bolton hopes to be a Surface Warfare Officer and will request to serve on an aircraft carrier.

Finally, AT2 Yozviak was recently selected for the highly competitive Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program (MECP).

The MECP is similar to ECP with the selected individual earning a commission as an U.S. Naval Medical Officer. Yozviak, a graduate of Bothell High School in Wash., first reported to VP-47 in 1997.

As an aviation electronic technician, Yozviak is a part of a team responsible for the maintenance of the radios, radar and navi-



IS1(AW) Beverly Warren

gation equipment onboard the P-3C Orion. She has always had an interest in pursuing a career in nursing ever since she took a Health Occupation class in high school.

"The medical field has always appealed to me because I enjoy taking care of people," says Yozviak. "The MECP is a perfect way for me to enter the Corps of Nurses."

Yozviak, and her husband Mike, will begin studying in August at Florida State University. "I would like to specialize in pediatrics or neonatal care once I get my degree," states Yozviak.

The "Golden Swordsmen" of VP-47 are proud of their new officer candidates and wish them good fortune in their academic and future commissioning endeavors. They are representative of the high caliber of personnel assigned to the P-3 squadrons and VP-47 in particular.